

## What Can Mediation Do For You?

- Resolve disagreements concerning identification, evaluation, placement or early intervention services provided to an infant or toddler, birth to age three with a disability, and their family.
- Encourage mutual problem-solving efforts.
- Promote positive working relationships between parents and service providers.

## How Do I Find A Mediator?

To request mediation or for more information, please call:

**Sound Options Mediation and Training Group, L.L.C. (Administrative Agents for the Department of Social and Health Services):**

1-800-692-2540 (WA State)  
206-842-2298 (Seattle area)  
206-780-5776 (FAX)

**Washington State Relay Service:**  
711 TTY Relay



IDEA Part C

# Mediation For Early Intervention Services



**For Parents of Infants and Toddlers With Disabilities**

[www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip/](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/iteip/)

A project funded by Department of Social and Health Services,  
Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program.

## What Is Mediation?

When parents and providers of early intervention services disagree about any matter relating to the identification, evaluation or provision of services related to the development of an infant or toddler, birth to three with a disability, either party may request mediation.

Mediation is an optional alternative to a formal administrative proceeding.

Mediation is a form of dispute resolution in which an impartial mediator assists disputing parties in a collaborative problem-solving process.

Mediators help parents and service providers resolve conflicts, clarify issues and develop mutually acceptable agreements.

Mediation lends itself to the development of a positive working relationship between parents and service providers.

## What Are Mediators Qualifications?

**Specially trained Mediators have:**

- Knowledge in laws and regulations relating to the provision of Part C, early intervention services.
- Experience and training in effective communication and the thorough resolution of Part C early intervention disputes.

## Who Pays For IDEA Part C Mediation?

Mediation services are available at no charge to parents or service providers. Part C Mediation is funded by the Department of Social and Health Services.

## Where Are Mediators Located?

Part C Mediation services are available at mutually agreeable locations throughout Washington state.

## How Does The Mediation Process Work?

All parties will be contacted by the intake coordinator to schedule a convenient date, time and location for the mediation. Written confirmation will be provided and a mediator will be assigned to the case.

Generally, a mediation session will be scheduled to occur within 14 calendar days of the request for mediation.

Issues that fall under IDEA Part C may at times be complex. Therefore, it is essential that participants set aside a full day for completion of the mediation.

During the mediation, the mediator provides both parties the opportunity to present their views of the conflict. The mediator does not make decisions or settle the dispute. The mediator helps the parties develop solutions which they believe are best for the child. Agreements are documented in writing and signed by all parties.

### Mediation is:

- Voluntary for parents and service providers
- Completely confidential
- An informal and collaborative process
- Does not delay or deny the right to an administrative proceeding
- Non-adversarial
- Less time consuming than an administrative proceeding
- At no cost to either party

